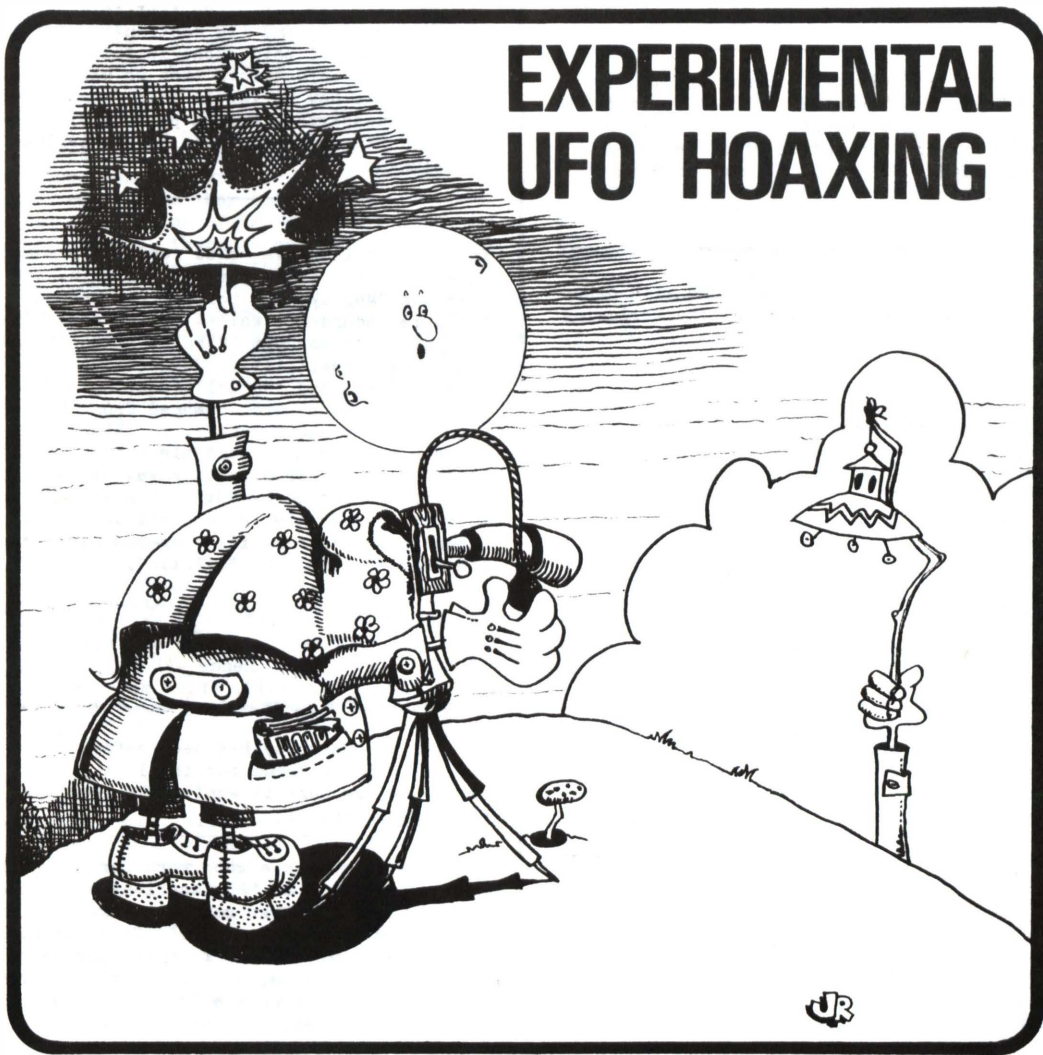


MUF0B

NEW SERIES 2

MARCH 1976

EXPERIMENTAL UFO HOAXING



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MARCH 1976

New Series No. 2 (Whole number 36)

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EDITORIAL PANEL:

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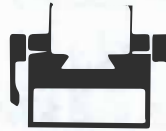
All exchange magazines and correspondence, (except in connection with the International Catalogue of Type I Reports) should be sent to the Editor: JOHN RIMMER, 11 BEVERLEY ROAD, NEW MALDEN, SURREY, KT3 4AW.

DONATIONS: We wish to thank the following people for their generous donations, which have been instrumental in getting MUFOB re-started as a viable journal: Lionel Beer, Dick Caster, William Finlay, Benton Jamison, Dr Berthold Schwars, Nigel Watson, John Weldon, Trevor Whittaker, and A N Other.

MUFOB is on sale at the following bookshops, which also stock a wide range of books on ufology and related subjects:

ATLANTIS BOOKSHOP, 49a Museum Street, London, WC1. COMPENDIUM BOOKS, 240 Camden High Street, London NW1. DARK THEY WERE AND GOLDEN EYED. 10 Berwick Street, London W1.

EDITORIAL NOTES



With this issue of MUFOB we go over experimentally to an all litho-printed format. Although the page size is smaller, the photographic reduction technique used means that each page of this issue contains the equivalent of almost 1½ pages of the old duplicated Bulletin. We emphasise that this change is experimental, and its continuance depends on the number of paid subscriptions we can raise. It is unfortunate that we were unable to start the New Series in this format, but it was necessary to assess present circulation and financial position before taking the plunge.

In the last issue we asked readers to suggest an alternative title for the Bulletin, now that the "Merseyside" part of our present title is redundant: whilst at the same time retaining the acronym "MUFOB", which has now become our 'real' title. Suggestions ranged from 'Modern' and 'Mutual' (echoing MUFON, the US UFO group which remamed from 'Midwest' when its coverage widened), to 'Misanthropic'! However an even more suitable name than the latter emerged serendipitally whilst searching the Oxford Dictionary during a hotly contested game of Scrabble. Henceforth MUFOB will be known to the Editor, if to no-one else, as the "Metempirical UFO Bulletin".

metem'pi'rio, n. (also -g) philosophy of things outside the sphere of experience: believer in this. Hence -AL a., -IST n. (f. META- + EMPIRIC, after *metaphysics*.)

However as everybody has been referring to the Bulletin as MUFOB for the last eight years, we are sure it won't make the least bit of difference!

We'd like to put in a good word for THE NEWS. Describing itself as "A miscellany of Fortean curiosities", it gives good coverage to UFOs and related phenomena. There's fascinating material in every issue. It costs 50p, comes out every two months, and an annual subscription is £3.00 (\$6.00) from the Editor, Robert Rickard, Post Office Stores, Aldermaston, Berks, RG7 4LW

EXPERIMENTAL UFO HOAXING

D. I. SIMPSON

ABSTRACT: By examining the effects of a controlled hoax, the reliability and objectivity of UFO experts is analysed. It is concluded that the enthusiasm and credulity of many commentators hinders the scientific appraisal of UFO phenomena.

INTRODUCTION: Over the years many thousands of UFO reports have been documented; numerous individuals and UFO organisations have analysed the information, and attempted to correlate sighting data in order to discover a pattern that will help to solve the UFO enigma. However, rarely has much thought been given to the lowest common denominator, the UFO enthusiasts themselves. How do they influence the collection and compilation of UFO data? Are investigators unbiased, thorough and scientific. Although the answers to these questions are of fundamental importance if a realistic understanding of UFO phenomena is to be achieved, most enthusiasts remain intolerant of such questions. Few are prepared to accept the suggestion that gross reporting errors frequently occur, and even fewer that UFO mysteries are often the result of incompetent partisan investigators.

The Society for the Investigation of Unidentified Flying Object Phenomena (SIUFOP), felt that experimental results were needed to continue the debate. It was considered that useful experiments would compare the details of fabricated 'UFO' stimuli with the descriptions given by unsuspecting witnesses. Subsequent documentation by ufologists would then provide a measure of their objectivity and general ability as UFO investigators. From a third-party viewpoint, results of the tests would enable "genuine" UFO accounts to be assessed more realistically.

The merits of controlled UFO hoaxes have rarely been discussed (1) but I report here, that during its formal existence, SIUFOP embarked upon a programme of such experiments designed primarily to involve those already engaged in the study of UFOs, rather than other members of the general public. Accounted below is one experiment: a UFO sighting created in 1970 that was substantiated with photographic evidence. Flying Saucer Review was largely responsible for documenting the case and by reference to their headline (2), this experiment is entitled 'Warminster Photographs'.

THE EXPERIMENT: Warminster, in Wiltshire, was the location chosen for this experiment because of its high density of skywatching ufologists. The scheme was to provide those watching on Cradle Hill with a simple visual stimulus, to introduce photographic evidence inconsistent with the stimulus and to observe the effect this evidence had on subsequent investigation, recording and publicity.

UFO 'landing' marks were dug and an appropriate area of grass was sined a few feet from the road along the side of Back Hill, Warminster. At 11.00pm on Saturday 28th March 1970 a light was shone from this position towards a group of ufologists on Cradle Hill, about ¾ of a mile away. The light was produced by a 144 watt tungsten lamp, roughly collimated by a 4½" diameter concave mirror and powered by a car battery. A purple gelatine filter was placed in the beam and the entire assembly was placed directly on a car roof. The lamp was switched on for five seconds, off for five seconds, and then on for 25 seconds. From start to finish therefore, the stimulus lasted 35 seconds and throughout this period the car and lamp remained stationary. Taking care not to be seen, the car and lamp were then quickly removed.

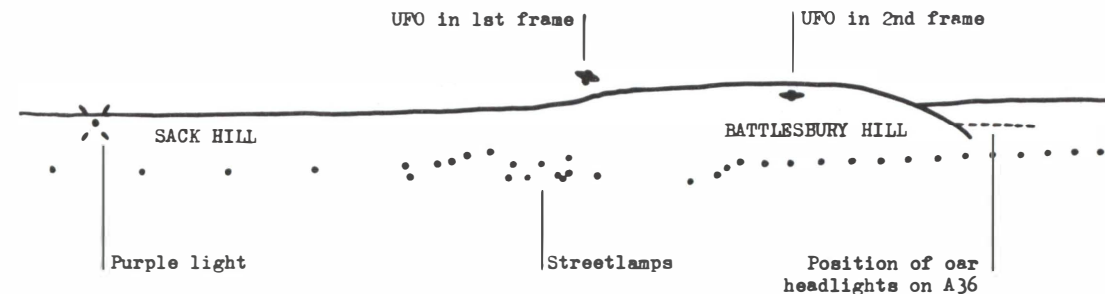
Amongst the skywatchers on Cradle Hill (who were soon aware of the strange light) were two items of SIUFOP apparatus: a UFO detector and a camera on a tripod. The outward appearance of the UFO detector was that of a typically home-made magnetic field sensor. Inside there was just a buzzer synchronised to sound 15 seconds after the purple light was first visible: this it did.

Whilst the skywatchers were viewing the purple light and noting the corroborating UFO detector SIUFOP member Mr Norman Foxwell appeared to photograph the light. The film in his camera had already been exposed however: the latent image thereon having been arranged to show a spurious UFO in a different position, and bearing no resemblance to the circular purple light. The spurious image was superimposed on two 35mm frames, each showing the night-time street lamp scene familiar to skywatchers on Cradle Hill. (See sketch)

In the first frame the UFO was mounted above the (invisible) horizon and approximately 22 degrees south of the position of the purple light. The second frame showed the UFO still

further south by about 8 degrees, below the horizon, fainter and blurred. Neither frame included the location of the purple light. The UFO image was made cigar-sectioned, horizontal and with a circular blob above and below centre. This design was created on an oscilloscope screen, using Lissajous figures.

most likely to fail, as encouraging a complete stranger to accept a potentially valuable film may well have been viewed with suspicion. It should be stressed that at this stage Mr Foxwell was totally unaware of the identity of any person or representative group on the hill (apart from three SIUFOP members).



SKETCH OF VIEW FROM CRADLE HILL

Headlamps of cars (about three miles away) driving westbound along the main road into Warminster are momentarily visible to the right of Battlesbury Hill when viewed at night from Cradle Hill. Therefore time exposure photographs taken in this direction often show a white line traced by the movement of cars during the exposure. It was ensured that the background scene used in each montage showed different lengths of line consistent with time exposure photographs of a few seconds.

Shortly after the purple light had been finally extinguished and the UFO detector had been switched off, Mr Foxwell took two genuine pictures, that included, as comparison photographs, part of the aforementioned streetlamp scene. This was to provide future photographic with the following significant clues that the UFO photographs were at least of a dubious nature. Firstly, the images on the prepared negatives were magnified over ten percent more than the genuine ones - individual streetlamps were easily identifiable and measurement of the distances between them highlights this inconsistency. Secondly, the background scenes used were photographed many months before March 1970 and showed gaps in the streetlamp pattern where two lamps were not working. When the genuine pictures were taken (minutes after the purple light incident) these streetlamps had been mended. These inconsistencies had been deliberately used to see if ufologists would critically examine the photographic evidence.

Mr Foxwell's brief was to pass the film from his camera to any ufologist who would arrange for it to be developed privately. This was considered to be the part of the experiment

He approached two people and asked where he could get his film developed. The reply was: "Don't know at this time of night." He approached another skywatcher who was the only person attempting to log information and mentioned that he had "got a couple of pictures". During the short conversation that followed, it transpired that this person was Mr John E Ben, who had contact with Flying Saucer Review. He agreed to take the film and about half an hour later it was handed over.

RESULTS: In an experiment of this type, results arrive in many forms: letters, telephone conversations and published articles, etc. Detailed reference to them all would require more space than is available here, and would probably serve little purpose anyway. I have attempted to extract from the records, data which in my estimation indicates the nature of the investigation being carried out by the ufologists concerned.

On Tuesday 31st March 1970, after having the film developed, Mr Ben telephoned a relative of Mr Foxwell (Mr Foxwell was not on the telephone) and dictated a message. Part of it read:

"There appears to be a large cylindrical object with two smaller objects leaving the main sphere. In one photo it seems one of the smaller spheres is still in contact."

Straight away patches of light on a two-dimensional negative were described as three-dimensional objects by the use of the words 'cylindrical' and 'sphere'.

The next day Mr Foxwell telephoned Mr Ben, who described the prints further and sought

permission to take them to a meeting of the Flying Saucer Review consultative committee. He added that the top six men from Europe were fortuitously due to attend.

Mr Ben worked at the Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine, and the film had been developed by Messrs Stanard and Hazell of their photographic department. During a telephone call on the 3rd April, Mr Foxwell was informed that they had decided the pictures could not possibly be faked. He was also told that the day after the sighting Mr Ben and his friends had visited the area where the purple light was seen, to look for marks on the ground. They found nothing, not even the 'landing' marks left by SIUFOP.

In further communications with Mr Foxwell, Mr Ben indicated that Flying Saucer Review was very interested in the pictures and would have them examined in their laboratory. On 26th May he wrote:

"Mr Charles Bowen of the FSR has contacted me this morning to tell me about your Warminster photographs. I am pleased to inform you that they have now proven the negatives to be genuine beyond all doubt".

The July-August 1970 issue of FSR gave the case its first publicity. (2) The cover illustration was an impression of the purple light painted by Mr Terence Collins, a professional artist who had been with the skywatchers on Cradle Hill. Although the general details of this impression were correct, the size of the object was exaggerated. In fact the diameter of the purple light subtended an angle (to those on Cradle Hill) similar to the nearby streetlamps whereas the artist's impression showed the purple light subtending an angle about ten-times larger than that of the street lamps.

This issue of FSR headed its Editorial "Warminster Phenomenon" and printed two articles reporting on Mr Foxwell's photographs, the first entitled "Photographs from Cradle Hill" by John Ben (3). In his article Mr Ben recalled the sighting back in March that year of what was actually a stationary, grounded light, visible for thirty-five seconds, and with respect to watchers on Cradle Hill was situated at an elevation of approximately zero degrees

"...at 11.02pm an object was seen at an elevation of approximately 20 degrees in the eastern sky. The object appeared very suddenly as if it came through the clouds and appeared to the eye as a very bright ovoid light, purple in colour with a periphery of white. Two members of my group who observed the object through binoculars both remarked they could see a crimson light in the centre: this was also attested to by witnesses with good vision....

"The object remained stationary for approximately 30 seconds during which time Mr Foxwell was able to take the first of his photographs. The object then moved slowly to the right - towards the town - and lost a little altitude in the process. At one stage in the movement it dimmed considerably as though obscured by low cloud. The object continued moving for about 20-30 seconds, and then stopped again. The light then increased considerably in intensity, though we could not be sure if the object was moving directly towards the observation point, or if it remained stationary. At this point the alarm of a detector sounded, and a witness ran to switch it off. After 10-20 seconds the light dimmed and then went out as though concealed by cloud. However we were all certain that the object had not moved once more. The sighting had lasted for approximately 1-1½ minutes...."

The stated elevation of the object and the duration of the sighting are obvious errors in observation, whilst the reference to clouds is misleading. Perhaps the most interesting part of the report is that section dealing with the 'movement' of the purple light. Instead of noting it as stationary, the description is consistent with the implied movement recorded on the fake photographs. The scenes shown on Mr Foxwell's photographs did not include the position of the purple light but this fact seems to have gone un-noticed.

The second article, 'The Warminster Photographs Examined' (4), was written by Percy Hennell FIBF, a photographer and consultant to FSR. He wrote:

"Let me say at the outset that there is nothing about these photographs which suggests to me that they have been faked in any way...."

Later he draws readers' attention to the left hand edges of the UFO shown in his enlargements. Because these edges are more pointed than the right hand ones he suggested:

"...that some propulsive jet may have been operating to move the object to the right."

Both articles noted car headlights in the background scene, but incorrectly placed them on the hill beyond the streetlights. Neither author seemed aware that they were to the right of Battlesbury Hill and on a main road.

Charles Bowen, the editor, added a note "What the Eye Sees..." (5) questioning why the object seen was so different from the image recorded by the camera. He ended his note by quoting an observation made by Mr R H B Winder after seeing the painting,

"These colours are reminiscent of the colours associated with ionisation in air".

(Mr R H B Winder, BSc, CEng, MIMech E, is listed as a consultant to Flying Saucer Review!)

During September 1970 Mr Ben invited Mr Foxwell to join him and his group at a meeting, to discuss the case further. By this time, I had contacted Mr Ben in my capacity as Chairman of SIUFOP and expressed interest in the Warminster Photographs. As a result, I too was invited to this meeting. It was considered expedient that Mr Foxwell should not attend, but Ken Raine (Vice-chairman of SIUFOP) and I did.

Among those present were John Ben, Terence Collins (the artist) and an independent consulting photographer, Michael Samuels FRMS. Much of the evening was spent trying to establish the positions of the photographic UFO relative to Battlesbury Hill. Ken Raine and I suggested photographically superimposing a twilight picture of Battlesbury Hill (taken from Cradle Hill) onto Foxwell's pictures. Photographs taken at twilight show the street lamps as well as the outline of Battlesbury Hill. These components would have enabled accurate superimpositioning and placing of the UFO respectively. The position of the car head lights would also have been correctly established. Little notice was taken of our idea; the others preferred to transfer construction lines from one photograph to another. Had our suggestion been heeded, they would have had a reasonable chance of discovering the magnification discrepancy outlined earlier.

A few weeks later Mr Ben told me that they had calculated the length of the UFO to be 56 feet and in the second picture it was 50 yards from the car headlights.

Dr Pierre Guérin, Director of Research at the Astrophysical Institute of the French National Centre for Scientific Research, presented a 'Tentative Interpretation' of the Warminster Photographs in the November-December 1970 edition of FSR (6) translated by Gordon Creighton. Initially he cleaned the negatives and then made new enlargements. He stated:

"In my opinion there is no question of the object photographed being in any possible way the result of faking..."

He then questioned the difference between the appearance of the image on the photographs and the eye-witness descriptions. To answer the question he suggested:

"...that the object photographed was emitting ultraviolet light which the eye does not see. Around the object, however, a ruby red halo, probably of monochromatic colour and doubtless due to some phenomenon of air ionisation, was visible only to the eye and in actual fact has made no impression on the film..."

"If this interpretation is correct, the consequences which we can draw from it are important. As will be known, in a recent issue of FSR (15,4), John Keel disputed the presence of any solid material object inside the variable luminous phenomena which he calls "soft sightings", claiming thereby that the solid phase of the UFO phenomenon is only one of the aspects - and no doubt the least frequent aspect - of the phenomenon in question. The Warminster sightings do indeed appear to furnish us with an example of "soft sighting" linked with the presence, at its centre, of a solid object not visible to the eye, but emitting ultra-violet light.

"That UFOs can appear, or disappear, on the spot, when leaving or entering our visual four-dimensional space-time is probably true. But it would be rash to assert that they do not always possess a material, solid body right from the very moment that they have penetrated into this space-time. Despite the claims of John Keel, the "soft sighting" could in fact very well be merely secondary effects of the presence of solid objects, whether or not visible to the eye, in the gaseous medium of our atmosphere. This hypothesis had already been formulated long ago, and the Warminster sightings seem to confirm it."

By January 1971, SIUFOP published its Newsletter No. 19 to which I contributed a characteristically critical article about the Warminster Photographs entitled "The Hoax of 1970?" (7). The SIUFOP Newsletter had a reputation for strongly attacking ufologists' methods and motives so this article was quite in keeping. In it I summarised the published case history and went on to criticise the investigations carried out by Messrs Ben, Hennell, Guérin and others for stated reasons. My conclusions contained the following sentence:

"At no stage in its publicity campaign has FSR referred to an investigation of the photographer - the most important person, because without the photographs, this would be merely another 'light in the sky' report."

An investigation of the photographer was not referred to because surprisingly nobody had interviewed him.

The March-April 1971 issue of FSR carried a surprise headline "New Mystery at Warminster". Mr M Samuels (previously met by DS and KR) had recently returned to Warminster with a camera to take some photographs from Cradle Hill in daylight. In his report "Unexpected Photographic Effects at Warminster" (8) he recounted a high light-meter reading and linked this with a later discovery of a very small, dark amorphous blemish in the sky area on one of

THE CATALOGUE

AN INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF TYPE I REPORTS

Compiled by Peter Rogerson

PART 7

343 1 October 1954 2200 hrs
DHUBRI (INDIA)

A woman reported to the police that she had seen a luminous disc leaving a long trail. It landed in a field, then took off again.

(M169; Combat 3 Nov. 1954; Challenge 132)

344 1 October 1954 1300 hrs
BLANZY (FRANCE) Two bricklayers, Romain Sebastiani and Bruno Buratto, approached a cigar-shaped object 3m long & 80cm wide, which took off from the ground with a whistling sound. The pointed section of the object was yellow, the rest brown. From the forepart two appendages reached to the ground.

(M170; Carrouges, S 115; Le Figaro, Le Parisien, 2 Oct 1954; France-Soir 4 Oct 1954)

345 1 October 1954 1600 hrs
BRY (FRANCE) A man and his dog were "paralysed" as a luminous white object dived towards them and climbed again. (M171)

346 1 October 1954 (appx) 1815 hrs
RESSONS-SUR-MATZ (FRANCE) A farmer saw a white craft in a field. Flattened grass was later found at the site. (M172)

347 1 October 1954 1900 hrs
JUSSEY (FRANCE) Two young men saw a luminous white disc moving in the sky. It dived to the ground, and two men described as very tall and dressed in white, emerged from it & made gestures. The witnesses ran away in fear (M173)

348 1 October 1954 2000 hrs
LA ROUL RIE (FRANCE) Near St Jean de Angely, 2 businessmen, M. Estier & M. Phelippeau, who were driving back from Royan, saw a little man crossing the road in front of their car. Having stopped, they saw the figure disappear into the woods. (M174; Sud-Ouest, c. 2 Oct. 1954)

349 1 October 1954 2200 hrs
BRANGES, nr. LOUHANS (FRANCE) Coming home at night, Gilbert Prudent saw a lighted object on the side of the road. It had a flat section, and a sort of "mushroom" on top. As

he approached it, the object became dark and took off vertically with a soft whistling sound (M175)

350 1 October 1954 2200 hrs
BERGERAC (FRANCE) Returning home fireman Jean Dufix (26) saw an oval light in the sky & thought it was a shooting star. Later he was alarmed when his yard seemed to be ablaze. Rushing out again, he saw a disc rise from the ground with a whistling sound. It flew off, became luminous again, and took off at fantastic speed. A neighbour Jean Labonne (61), saw the disc 3m diameter, resting on 3 legs in the yard. (M176; Figaro 6 Oct 1954; France-Soir 7 Oct 1954; ibid. 8 Oct 1954; Michel II, 130)

351 2 October 1954
LEVROUX (FRANCE) At the Bourg du Cerisier, 2 women (Janiki & Laotie) independently reported to police that a luminous disc about 3m diameter had flown very low over the village. (M177; Figaro, 4 Oct 1954; France-Soir, Liberation, La Croix, 5 October 1954)

352 2 October 1954
JONCHES (FRANCE) 2 creatures were seen on the ground, and 2 hours later a luminous red object was seen in the same spot, at very low altitude. (M178; Quincy)

353 2 October 1954 0230 hrs
LOUHANS (FRANCE) In the immediate vicinity of case 349, M. Nicolas saw a craft with a dome on top, on the ground between the road and railway tracks. A strong yellow light shone through some openings. (M179; Bourgogne Republicaine, 3 Oct 1954; Michel II, 109)

354 2 October 1954 2000 hrs
CROIX D'EPINE (FRANCE) A mechanic, Ernest Delattre (19) was riding home on his motor-scooter when an egg shaped object, brilliantly illuminated landed on the left side of the road 15m away. He saw short dark shapes "like potato bags" moving about the object. He sped up and saw the object, the size of a small bus, taking off while its colour changed from orange to blue and then to greyish blue. The witness fainted while telling this story. Two persons in neighbouring villages independently reported seeing the object. (M180)

355 3 October 1954 0545 hrs
BRESSUIRE (FRANCE) Angelo Girardo (55), stockyard employee, was going to work when, near the silo of the Bressuire farm co-op, he saw a circular craft 3m diameter and standing close by a small figure wearing a diving suit which walked towards him. As the witness cycled away in terror, the little man re-

entered the craft, which took off at a fantastic speed. (M182: Figaro, 4 Oct 1954: France-Soir, Liberation, La Croix, 5 Oct 1954: Michel II, 130: Guiseu II, 131: Carrouges S, 158: Pereira V, 193)

356 3 October 1954 1845 hrs
VRON (FRANCE) Between Rue & Quend on Rte D27, 4km from Lignesecourt, Rene Coudette and Bernard Devoisin were cycling with a 3rd witness, when they saw a luminous orange, domed disc, 3m wide, 2m high, resembling a "haystack" or "honeycomb" on the road ahead of them. A man "the height of a child", dressed like a diver, stood near the machine. As the witnesses approached within 70m, the little man hurried back to the craft, which took off very rapidly. (M183: Figaro, 4 Oct 1954: France-Soir, Liberation, La Croix, 5 Oct 1954: Michel II, 118: Carrouges S, 158)

357 3 October 1954 1920 hrs
CHERENG (FRANCE) The crowd at a fair saw a luminous object arrive very fast in the sky stop in flight, emit sparks, and come down to ground level. As witnesses rushed to the spot it took off again. (M184: Michel II, 113)

358 3 October 1954 2055 hrs
HERISSART (FRANCE) As they were leaving Herissart to drive to Amiens, Mme Nelly Mansart & M. & Mme Delarouse saw a luminous orange "mushroom shaped object" from which hung "cables". The craft was 7-8m diameter, 150m away. Changing colour, it descended to ground level, following their car for about 7 km, through several villages. It disappeared at high speed at Riannville, 9.6km from Amiens. (Michel II, 115)

359 3 October 1954 2100 hrs
BIDESTROFF nr. GUEBLIN (FRANCE) An object, giving off flashes of green and purple light, which had been manoeuvring in the Vergaville-Gueblin area since 2017hrs, descended to ground level behind some trees a few hundred meters from Bidestroff. As witnesses ran towards it, the craft took off at a slant at high speed. (Michel II, 104)

360 3 October 1954 2110 hrs
GUEND (FRANCE) An orange object pursued a car driven by Georges Gilliont, a butcher of Rue, with his wife and son, for 8km. It accelerated away just before the reached Rue. (M185: France-Soir, 7 Oct 1954: Michel II, 116) VALLEE OMITTED TO NOTE THE WIFE AND SON AS WITNESSES.

361 3 October 1954 2245 hrs
RONSENAC (FRANCE) A circular craft was seen by Jean Allary (23) between Montmoreau & Villebois-Levalette. It seemed to be gliding on the ground. It showed luminous spots and became completely luminous when it took off. It was about 1.2m high. Grass was found flattened and scorched over an area 7m across. (M186: Combat, France-Soir, Paris Presse, 6 Oct 1954: Michel II, 130)

362 3 October 1954 2300 hrs
BENET (FRANCE) Near LaRocheville, M & Mme Guillemoteau saw a red object 2.5m high, 5m diameter, hover for several minutes 1m above a swamp, then rise vertically. Oily marks were found at the spot. (M137: France-Tireur, La Croix, France-Soir, Figaro, 7 Oct 1954: Michel II, 131)

363 3 October 1954 2345 hrs
GUEBLIN (FRANCE) M. Gilcher & M. Domant saw a disc emitting a weak green light land in a field 10m from the road. When the two reached the spot they found passers-by gazing at the craft, without daring to approach. After some time the witnesses walked away and returned home. (M181: Michel II, 105)

364 4 October 1954
LIMOGES (FRANCE) An object was said to have landed in the yard of Mr Montagne, a railway employee. (M188: France-Soir, 7 Oct 1954)

365 4 October 1954
LEZIGNAN (FRANCE) Andre Garcia & Andre Darzais were driving a truck between Lagrasse & Villemagne when they saw a luminous object coming slowly to the ground. It measured about 10m diameter and took off with a burst of light. (M189: France-Soir, 7 Oct 1954: Michel II, 139)

366 4 October 1954
CHALEIX (FRANCE) A farmer, M. Garreau, saw a bell-shaped object the size of a carriage land in his field. Two men of normal height emerged through a sliding door. They wore khaki overalls, and were of European type. They shook hands with the witness and said something like: "Paris? Nord?". They gave M Garreau's dog a pat on the back. The craft took off at amazing speed. (M190: France-Tireur, L'Aurore, Liberation, 7 Oct 54; France-Soir, Paris-Presse, 8 Oct 1954: Magonia, 146: Carrouges S, 130: Pereira V, 195) CARROUGES? PERERIRA, AND SOME NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS SAY THE OCCUPANTS SPOKE INDISTINCT WORDS.

367 4 October 1954 Evening
TREGON (FRANCE) Several people noticed an object hovering over a hilltop. They drove to the site but it flew away. What seems to have been the same object was seen at Megrit, 25km to the SW, hovering 50m over a farm. It was described as metallic, flat and emitting light. (M191: Le Parisien, 7 Oct 1954: Michel II, 139)

368 4 October, 1954 1830 hrs
MONTCEAUL-LES-MINES (FRANCE) At Les Chavannes, about 20 people, among them Remy Gaudicourt of Sanvignes, saw a circular luminous object rise from the vicinity of the railway tracks. It took off vertically. (M192: Michel II, 133)

369 4 October 1954 1840 hrs
VILLERS-LES-TILLEUL (FRANCE) 10 year old Bertieux saw on object "like a tent" and an unknown man near it. (M193)

370 4 October 1954 2000 hrs
PONCEY-SUR-L'IGNON (FRANCE) Mm Yvette Fournieret, a housewife, ran away, as an orange circular object, 3m in diameter, swung in mid air and landed near her farm. When M. Girargot & M. Vincent arrived with rifles, they found that the earth had been "sucked up" over a quadrilateral area. Francois Buillier confirmed that he had seen a luminous object in flight. There were intensive investigations by the French Air Force and police. (M194, France-Tireur, L'Aurore, Liberation, 7 Oct 1954: France-Soir, Paris-Presse, 8 Oct 1954: Michel II, 134: Anatomy, 71)

371 5 October 1954
ROVERBELLO (ITALY) A fisherman met with a red-clad being who spoke an unknown language. No details. (M195: Quincy; FSR 10,1)

372 5 October 1954 0400 hrs
LOCTUDY (FRANCE) A baker, P Lucas, was draining water from a well when he noticed an object some distance away. It was circular, about 3m in diameter. From it emerged a dwarf with an oval face covered with hair, and eyes "as large as ravens eggs", who touched him on the shoulder and spoke to him in an unknown tongue. The dwarf went away and the object took off. (M196: France-Tireur, La Croix, France-Soir, Figaro, 7 Oct 1954: Carrouges S, 141)

373 5 October 1954 0630 hrs
LE MANS (FRANCE) East of Le Mans on Rt. N23, Renault employees were going to work when they saw, near the road, a luminous object on the ground and felt "prickling and a sort of paralysis". The object emitted a burst of green light, and flew away very low over the fields. (M197: France-Soir, 9 Oct 1954: Vuillequez: Michel II, 143: Carrouges S, 175)

374 5 October 1954 0715 hrs
NERTRUD (FRANCE) A roadmender, M Narcy, saw an object near the road between Veillecomte & La Neuville. In a report to police, he stated that he saw a hairy dwarf, wearing an orange, tight-fitting jacket, climb aboard the craft, which consisted of a cigar-shaped section under a flat disc. Between the two sections was a kind of porthole, through which the entity entered the object. Traces were found at the spot. (M198: Le Parisien, 7 Oct 1954: Combat, L'Aurore, France-Soir, 8 Oct 1954: Journal du Dimanche, 10 Oct 1954) VALLEE (FSR 10,3) ORIGINALLY REGARDED THIS CASE AS "DEFINITELY A HOAX"

375 5 October 1954 1545 hrs
BEAUMONT (FRANCE) 10km from here several people saw an object coming towards them and getting brighter. When it was about 150m away

they felt a "strange sensation" and found themselves unable to move. The object left a smell compared to that of nitro-benzene. (M199: France-Tireur: La Croix, France-Soir, Figaro, 7 Oct 1954: Challenge, 53)

376 6 October 1954 dusk
MOUCHAMPS (FRANCE) M & Mm Laroche, from Paris, saw a fiery sphere land near Chantannay. (M200: AFP, 7 October 1954)

377 6 October 1954 2130 hrs
LA PERE (FRANCE) Near the military barracks, soldiers saw a strange object on the ground 300m away. As one of the approached the torpedo-shaped object, which was about 80cm high, he found himself paralysed. (M201)

378 6 October 1954 2230 hrs
VILLERS-LE-LAC (FRANCE) Mm Salabrino and her daughter saw a whitish light in the western sky. It seemed slowly to come towards the ground, and was later seen between the railway station & the bridge about 100m away from their house. When it moved, a very bright light was visible under its dark mass. It gave off a flow of sparks & rose, hovered for a moment, and flew away rapidly. (M202: Michel II, 138)

379 7 October 1954 Early
PLOZEVET (FRANCE) The crews of several fishing boats saw a luminous, orange coloured object, over the coast, apparently surrounded by dense smoke. Villagers saw the same object and stated independently that it came within 10m of the ground, then flew away to the SE. (M204: France-Soir 10 Oct 1954: Michel II, 140)

380 7 October 1954 0400 hrs
BERUGES (FRANCE) Farmer Edouard Thebault (36) found his room strangely illuminated as he got up. From his window he saw a luminous object 2-3m diameter on the road a few meters from his house. When he struck a light "an enormous light appeared on the machine also, and swept all around". He ran to wake his father, but when they had returned the craft had gone. (M205: France-Soir 10 Oct 1954: Michel II, 142)

381 7 October 1954 Dawn
JETTIGNEN (FRANCE) A railway employee, Rene Ott, was riding his motor scooter when he saw a mushroom shaped object, 3m in diameter, in a field 3m away from Rte N16 and 1m above the ground. A luminous rectangle, like a door, was seen on the side. As the witness rode away, he was caught in a brilliant light as the machine flew about 5m above him, following him to the next village. (M206, France-Soir, 10 Oct 1954: Michel II, 144)

382 7 October 1954 0620 hrs
ST-JEAN-D'ASSE (FRANCE) On Rt N138 a truck driver, Alexander Tremblay, was just going up a slight hill when his motor and

headlights died. When he got out he saw an intense blue light coming towards him. The object producing it was cigar-shaped, red and blue. (M207; France-Soir, 10 Oct 1954; Michel II, 143)

383 7 October 1954 1430

MONTEUX (FRANCE) Rene Margailan saw an object that had landed in a field, and ran towards it. As the machine took off the witness gasped for air and felt "paralysed". (M208; Michel II, 145; Magonia, 85)

384 7 October 1954 1800 hrs

HENNEZIS (FRANCE) Claude (10) and Francoise (9) Lamselin were returning home on an overcast evening. They were passing a newly ploughed field when, in a hollow 200m away, they saw a red, luminous, egg shaped object with its top pointing upwards. As they approached to within 100m they saw a black "lid", and at the same time two men of normal height appeared from the craft. The men were dressed all in black, and had black faces. The youngsters fled. When their father came to the field the machine and the men had vanished leaving no trace. (M203; Wilkins U, 242; Michel II, 145; Carrouges, S, 129;

WILKINS GAVE THE TIME AS 6 AM, BUT FROM THE CONTEXT OF CHILDREN RETURNING HOME FROM SCHOOL, AND MICHEL'S INFORMATION THAT THE CASE HAPPEND "LATE IN THE DAY" WE CAN SAFELY ASSUME A MISPRINT FOR 6 PM.

385 7 October 1954 1930 hrs

St-ETIENNE-SOUS-BARBUISSE (FRANCE) Maroel Guyet was coming from work near this village, and his son Jacques followed the same road 10 minutes later. Both saw, at a railway crossing, three objects on the ground that gave a bright white light. One was circular, the others cigar shaped. (M207; France-Soir, 9 Oct 1954; Michel II, 146)

386 7 October 1954 2400 hrs

BOMPAS (FRANCE) M. Sebelli saw an object land in the village. He called his neighbours and they observed the departure of the craft. (M210; Paris-Presse, Figaro, 13 Oct 1954; Michel II, 146)

387 8 October 1954 0230 hrs

TEHRAN (IRAN) Ghasem Fili, of Amireah Street, was on the second floor of his house when he saw a luminous, white flying object stop in mid-air 20m away. Lights were shining from the rear and sides of the craft, inside which could be seen a small man dressed in black, wearing a mask with a trunk like an elephant. "I was standing with both hands on the bar of my balcony, looking with astonishment at this strange object, when I suddenly felt I was being drawn up toward the object by a magnet". Mr Fili cried out in terror and

woke his neighbours. The object shot straight up, emitting sparks, and it was lost to sight almost immediately. (M211; Ettela'at 15 Oct 54; L'Aurore, 13 Oct 1954; FSR 13,2)

388 8 October 1954 2115 hrs

CALAIS (FRANCE) On the road to Boulogne a blueish object, clearly seen with dome on top, dived towards the ground, turned white & went away. (M212; L'Aurore, Le Parisien, 11 Oct 1954; Figaro, 11 Oct 1954; Michel II, 154)

389 9 October 1954

MONTAREN (FRANCE) Between Monteren and Serviers, 1km from 'Le Mas Blanc', Dr Fabre, M. Court and 6 others saw an orange, oval object oscillating in mid-air. It was very bright and "fiery" and it came very low. (M214)

390 9 October 1954 1600 hrs

CARCASSONNE (FRANCE) As he was driving near Carcassonne, Jean Bertrand saw a bright metallic sphere on the road ahead. The top half seemed to be made of transparent plastic, and two humanoid figures were standing inside. it took off rapidly, flying east. (M219; Paris-Presse, 12 October 1954; Michel II, 154)

391 9 October 1954 Evening

RINKERODE (GERMANY) Willi Hoge, a projectionist, was returning home to Munster, when he saw a blue light, and thought an aeroplane had made an emergency landing. 70m from the road was a cigar-shaped object, with four men wearing rubber coveralls working under it. They were about 1.2m tall, had very large chests and oversized heads; their legs were short and thin. (M217; Le Parisien, Combat, Figaro, 12 Oct 54; Paris-Presse 13 Oct 54; INS, 10 Oct 54; Michel II, 155; Carrouges S, 160; Guieu II; Pereira V, 180, 195)

392 9 October 1954 Evening

BEAUVAIN (FRANCE) Near the Landeforet pool, cyclist Christian Carette saw a fiery sphere, 4m in diameter with a protuberance on top, flying at terrific speed at treetop height. It was seen for 10 secs. (M218; Paris-Presse 12 Oct 54; Combat, 12 Oct 54; Michel II, 152)

Information for, and comments on, this catalogue should be sent to:

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his pictures. He wrote:

"My feelings now are that some link needs to be found between the facts that the image that was formed on the film appeared during the time of excess ultraviolet radiation - especially as none of the four persons present on Cradle Hill at the time when the photographs were taken remember seeing any object, either usual or unusual over Battlesbury Hill."

and later:

"If we assume that our object was of solid matter, emitting radiation

"If we assume that our object was of solid matter, emitting ultraviolet radiation, we find, on consideration, that the solid outline would be broken down by the non-focussing ultraviolet radiation, but would still be dark enough to cause a loss of density on the negative."

Suffice it to point out that an ultraviolet source, like any visible one, would cause an increase in the density of a negative, not the decrease observed.

A total of five articles relating to the Warminster Photographs were published in this issue of FSR. Charles Bowen chronicled "Progress at Cradle Hill" (9) and printed a contact print of Mr Foxwell's negative strip, showing the order of the four exposures. The images on this published contact strip are obviously quite small, but anyone with normal eyesight and a ruler can measure the aforementioned magnification error by comparing the distance between ten streetlamps on negative 1 with the distance between the same ten streetlamps on negative 4.

In a full page letter to FSR (10), Mr S Soammell did actually suggest superimposing day and night photographs; but proceeded to do this by measurement, rather than photographically. As a result he concluded that the UFO pictures were taken from a location on Cradle Hill known as Field Barn. They were not; from this location much of the detail shown in the UFO pictures cannot be seen as it is obscured by Cradle Hill itself. From John Ben's original report he calculated that the object photographed was probably an army vehicle traveling at about 15mph. He too, incorrectly placed the main road car headlamps on Battlesbury Hill.

In John Ben's second report, "Continued Investigations at Warminster" (11) the car headlamps were placed on Battlesbury Hill yet again.

"A Further Examination of the Warminster Photographs", by Terry Collins (12) featured a double page elevation diagram of Battlesbury Hill. With measurements from the UFO photographs he constructed, with gross errors, the two positions of the UFO and the position of

the car headlamp. (The published diagram was 13" long and the error in positioning the headlamps was 2") According to his calculations the main body of the UFO was 60feet long and 15feet wide.

In order to record more accurately the true appearance of the purple light, SIUFOP had revisited Warminster on Saturday, February 13th 1971. The light was shone twice that evening, once from the original position on Sack Hill, and once from a car moving along Sack Hill. Several ufologists were skywatching at the time. When the sixth supplement of FSR Case Histories dated August 1971 was published it became apparent that one of the skywatchers had photographed our light and submitted the transparency, with a covering letter to FSR. (13) In his letter, Mr Frank M G Morton drew attention to the similarity of this sighting to the cover illustration of FSR Vol 16, No. 4. He described the events reasonably accurately in a manner contrasting with John Ben:

"The appearances and disappearances of the light in all cases were like a lamp being switched on and off suddenly."

Little more was published in the second year since the start of the experiment, but verbal comments made by various ufologists at lectures etc. gave the impression that this case was becoming a classic reference.

Unfortunately for SIUFOP, June 1972 heralded the end of its control over the experiment. The success of the experiment depended on secrecy and it was therefore regrettable that a friend in whom Mr Foxwell confided was also a friend of Carl Grove, a contributor to FSR. As a result FSR were informed that the Warminster Photographs were faked, although I do not think they knew of SIUFOP's involvement. Mr Foxwell had changed his occupation and as a result the good communication channels that had previously existed between him and SIUFOP members were lost. As a result much time elapsed before SIUFOP was aware of the extent of the disclosure. Were it not for this, Messrs Ben and Bowen would have received full answers in reply to their subsequent courteous letters to Mr Foxwell. I must apologise for the fact that no such answers were sent.

The experiment was ended after 2½ years by the editorial column in the July-August 1972 issue of FSR (14), headlined "Dubious Photographs".

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS: In any detailed investigation, whether into UFOs or something else, all evidence should be subjected to critical appraisal if it is to be thoroughly understood. Scientific evaluation requires that inconclusive, suspicious, or self-contradictory evidence be classified as such and subsequently shelved. Unless this is done we are left with either a hypothesis made weak and unconvincing

by disreputable evidence, or a hypothesis based on myths which add nothing useful to the understanding of our environment. The Warminster Photographs provided a group of ufologists with the opportunity to use such a classification. The inbuilt flaws were easily detectable had the negatives been subjected to a critical analysis.

The vast amount of literature published leads one to the conclusion that the pictures were considered very significant by UFO researchers, yet despite this and their impressive list of consultants, the investigators concerned did not analyse the evidence critically. Not once did they interview Mr Foxwell, yet without his photographs the sighting would have been insignificant. Their statements and actions were often not those of people trying to understand a strange event, but those of people prepared to ignore relevant criticisms in order to support a cause.

In the eyes of many a UFO case takes on an aura of credibility when endorsed by someone of high professional standing like Dr Pierre Guérin. It is therefore disappointing that Dr Guérin should apparently be unaware of the ease with which 'perfect' fake photographs can be manufactured.

It should be stated that FSR was not singled out for this experiment; its involvement was pure chance. Charles Bowen, the editor, his consultants, John Ben and most people associated with the case are not archetypal flying saucer fanatics; indeed FSR is considered by many to epitomise dispassionate UFO research. It is therefore unfortunate that when presented with a UFO case of such potential importance, so little was achieved. The sighting took place in England, the photographer lived near London, and his negatives yielded what many considered to be the most convincing pictures of an Unidentified Flying Object ever taken. Knowing this, investigators failed to learn the geographical layout of the sighting area, they failed to interview the photographer and they failed to discover the substantial inconsistencies introduced into the negatives. The other UFO cases published in FSR often originate in distant parts of the world and are rarely corroborated with scientific data. Is it likely that they have been reported or investigated more competently than the Warminster Photographs? I doubt it.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: I would like to thank all those members of SIUFOP who helped in the experiment, and the editors of MUFOB for printing this belated report.

EDITORIAL NOTE: We wish to make it clear that until being presented with this report by Mr Simpson, none of the Editorial team of MUFOB had any more information about this hoax than was published at the time in FSR. The appearance in the Bulletin in 1970, of an article by Paul Hopkins about such an experimental hoax, was one of those 'synchronicities' so beloved of Charles Fort!

NOTES, QUOTES & QUERIES



Mothman and 'winged wierdo' fans may be interested in the following item, which appeared in the Daily Mail for 27th February, 1976:

"Schoolteachers Patricia Bryant in one ear and David Rendon and a friend in another, did not discuss at school the huge bird 'casting a shadow over the whole road' that swooped over them outside San Antonio, Texas. 'We didn't want to alarm the pupils,' says Mrs Bryant, who says another 15ft wingspread 'big bird' was hovering over a herd of cattle by the road."

Our congratulations to Brinsley Le Poer Trench on his elevation to the House of Lords as the 8th Earl of Clancarty. Is His Lordship, we wonder, the first leading ufologist to become a member of a national legislature? We are assured by the Evening Standard that the Earl intends to introduce the subject of UFOs into the Upper House at an opportune moment.

VERY LIKE A WHALE

An appeal for a new approach to the UFO phenomenon

BRYAN JEFFERY

The statistics of opinion polls are very clear evidence that the UFO or flying saucer is one of the major cultural phenomenon of our time, (1) and it is fairly clear that this represents the whole socio-cultural spectrum, boasting a high proportion of 'believers' in practically all walks of life. Moreover, the experience of all investigators is that the reported sightings are only the tip of the iceberg, and that a fairly high proportion of the population has seen some form of phenomenon of a 'UFO' type. This, combined with a media presentation which is usually sensational or satirical, constitutes what Jung described as the 'Rumour'. (2)

It is, as a MUFOB editorial describes it, a Rainbow, receding as one approaches it, confused in a welter of 'noise', demonstrating an illogicality and absurdity which appears to defy objective analysis: and of course the damning lack of physical evidence remains. It is clear also that the UFO phenomenon is parasitic on the aspirations and fears of mankind, taking its form from the sub-conscious, repeating in a technological context archetypal myth forms. There is also a very evident psychic aspect to the phenomenon, and by that I mean that the witness is a function of the manifestation, in the same way that it was believed that ghosts would not walk without a witness.

Recent work, notably that of Vallee, (3) has identified the homogeneity of the "Rumour" from ancient times to the present. Primitive societies usually possess such a "Rumour" of invisible or occasionally visible non-human entities interfering in human affairs, or at any rate possessing power over them. This "Rumour" is usually institutionalised in the form of a fairy- or spirit-faith which, as Evans-Wentz observed, (4) achieves very considerable coherence.

To some extent this 'institutionalisation' is to be observed in present-day society: the phenomenon is bundled into the domain of the physical sciences, and scientists are incited to get on with it - similarly, the scientific community 'exorcises' the unfortunate vulgus with incanted arguments too familiar to be repeated here. Yet this react-

ion is in itself significant. The UFO phenomenon is regarded as a manifestation of the human irrational, and as such an enemy to Cartesian methodology and materialism. It is, as John Keel believes, a Trojan Horse destroying us from within by manipulating our nightmares? Or is it as Aime Michel seems to believe, a great Deus Ex Machina leading man onwards?

There is a sinister aspect to these manifestations holding up a grotesque distorting mirror to the human collectivity, best caught perhaps by Bergman in *The Hour of the Wolf*. It is an established literary idea, a basic archetype that beings can be created or harnessed out of Magonia, out of the dark side of the human mind. For many ufologists, for many contactees, the UFO phenomenon has indeed represented an 'Infernal Machine' reducing them to insanity and even death, a process often accompanied by psychic phenomena which may themselves be the creation of the victim.

In many ways the UFO spectrum resembles the phenomena of parapsychological research. The manifestations of these phenomena are subjective, employing laws which baffle those who attempt to employ verification by repeatability. Indeed the criteria of physical science appear to be of strictly limited use yet no alternative analytical and conceptual system appears to be available. The "Rumour" must thus be damned.

Yet regrettably, it will not go away, and when one considers its overall coherence independent of individual witnesses, one can only conclude that it is a function of human collectivity as a whole. If it is a function of the collective subconscious, as Jung believed, then its historical coherence means that it must be related to the totality of the human subconscious in its historical totality. Its scale and patterns would seem to preclude everyone having their own custom made 'thing'. For example, how is one to explain 'flap' phenomena of the airship, flying-cross, bigfoot, spring-heel Jack or mothman type? Phenomena which, even if rooted in the collective subconscious, occur in limited geographical areas, during specific periods of time, and involving isolated witnesses near-simultaneously, in conditions in which 'contamination' cannot have occurred by publicity. Or again, how is one to explain the extraordinarily detailed occupant cases which are reproduced again and again with great coherence, in a large number of cases and subject to the same conditions as 'flaps'?

Let us take some further examples: the Trinidad photos - it would be a strange hallucination indeed that could affect such a large number of different witnesses, in at least two different locations, and also

produce photographs of the object observed. I am not disclaiming this as a possibility, and the Ted Serios and Stella Lansing photos would seem to suggest that images can be psychically induced off film. But if this is the case our ideas of group psychology (and physics - ed) are going to need some revising

Or UMMO? The scale of the affair, and technical details connected with it would seem to preclude a hoax, and it is by no means the only such affair on record. Or Fatima, for example. Much time and attention has been lavished on the events of this case, and much of it may perhaps have a psychological explanation - yet this 'perhaps' becomes increasingly weighty when one places the Fatima affair in the context of a long history of such manifestations from the middle-ages to the present day. Once again there is an overall coherence in these manifestations, and the 'communications' involved would seem to preclude the elaboration of the affair by the witnesses in each case. At Garabandal, for example, it was further clear that no hysterical explanation in terms of known psychiatric phenomena could be employed, and the contact continued under conditions of scrupulous scientific observation and analysis.

It has been suggested that the Betty and Barney Hill affair was an hallucination shared by the couple, and this explanation has been extended to other so-called 'encounter' cases: but the date of the various religious visions would be difficult to dismiss in this way, and its very validity would call into question such 'normal' explanations for which there is no direct evidence

It would seem then that if we are dealing with a fabrication of the collective unconscious of Magonia, we have to postulate the existence of 'autonomous' syndromes of great complexity and coherence not restricted by factors of time and place, and capable of selected manifestations within the human collectivity. This seems a very disquieting alternative to the Venusians.

A whole spectrum of phenomena are thus 'parasitic' in nature and temporal distribution on the socio-cultural conditions in which they occur, and the individual psychology of the witness. As Jung suggests, these signs are particularly apparent in troubled times, but nevertheless there is a basic, consistent, level of 'noise' in all times. To write the whole thing off as just another myth is to beg several questions - as to whether the myth is causally related to the observers of its manifestations: as to the mechanisms by which these manifestations occur: as to the implications of such manifestations for the society in which they

occur: and to the apparently 'autonomous' nature of the myth, particularly with regard to its ability to provoke manifestations observed by persons ignorant of the myth itself.

How are we to deal with this 'Rainbow', denying our attempts to touch and catch it, to quantify and evaluate it? Not with the principles of physical science. The phenomenon is subjective, related to the whole of the human collectivity, not merely in its present technological context, but in its historical totality - and it must be borne in mind that it is very largely the 'psychic impoverishment' of urban-technical society that prevents the acceptance of a coherent fairy- or spirit-type faith as a major cultural factor. In its place we have merely a 'Rumour' of things seen in the sky.

If however the phenomenon itself is not susceptible to objective study, then we must turn our attention to the collectivity and, as parapsychology is being obliged to, employ conceptual and analytical tools not borrowed from the physical sciences. A 'Rumour' is not legitimate matter for scientific study, but it most definitely is legitimate matter for historical study. As Rene Fouere observes, (5) as one can only deal with indirect evidence, the study of the UFO is this more an historical than a scientific matter - is not history after all the science of indirect evidence? Can one not thus compare the indirect evidence for the UFO phenomenon with the indirect evidence that constitutes all events in the past? By the criteria of physical science, phenomena not subject to verification by repeatability are not "scientific" phenomena. One can only point out, in this context, that no historical event is subject to verification by repeatability.

Let us consider the way in which history deals with Ideas, phenomena recognisably related to such 'Rumours' as the UFO phenomenon. An idea, if held by a sufficiently large number of people for a sufficient period of time, with sufficient coherence, becomes a major historical factor, capable of quasi-autonomous existence, and often exerting in its own right a crucial influence on the course of events. And yet it is not a "scientific" phenomenon - as the Marxist historians have found out to their cost. It is susceptible to study and analysis within its socio-cultural and economic context, in relation to comparative studies of ideology, religion and morality, in relation to individual and group psychology. Like the subatomic particle in the cloud chamber, the invisible can be studied by the traces it leaves on the environment.

The social sciences have for too long been hobbled by the criteria and ideology of the physical sciences, a situation which has only

recently been challenged. The conceptual and analytical tools of the former are equally valid, their standards equally rigorous. It would seem that their employment would present the most promising possibility of replacing the sterility into which the study of the UFO phenomenon has been led by the methodology and assumptions of astronomers, informaticians, engineers, meteorologists, and the like.

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BOOKS

JACOBS, David Michael. The UFO Controversy in America. (Indiana University Press. £6.90)

As the title suggests, this book is about the UFO controversy rather than the UFOs themselves. Professor Jacobs is an historian and has written what will probably come to be regarded as the definitive history of the UFO controversy in America, covering the period from 1947 to 1973.

The first chapter discusses the 1897 airship mystery, but on a fairly superficial level. Some articles published in various small-circulation UFO journals have gone into this matter in more detail and greater depth.

The book is mainly concerned with the UFO investigations conducted by the US Air Force, the rise of NICAP, and the political pressure which that organisation brought to bear on the Air Force and, finally, the Colorado Project. Professor Jacobs is obviously trying to be impartial in his account, but one gets the impression that he has a leaning towards the believers in the ETH, even though he criticizes Keyhoe's "loose thinking" in support of that hypothesis. There is little in this book that will be unfamiliar to most ufologists - the inadequacies of Blue Book (When Ruppelt left in August 1953, "No replacement came for him and he turned over his command to Airman First Class Max Futch"), Blue Book's notorious fiddling of UFO statistics, the chaos in the Colorado Project.

Like many writers on UFOs, Jacobs tries to separate the contactees from the 'serious' UFO witnesses and investigators. Although he mentions Arnold's famous sighting he does not refer to his contactee experiences as described in "The Coming of the Saucers". Although he criticizes Keyhoe, as we have already noted, he appears to adopt a similar attitude, apparently not realising that the contactee syndrome is an integral part of the whole UFO mystery. He mentions Gray Barker's writings on the MIB, but ignores Al Bender and John Keel, and Vallée's "Passport to Magonia". In other words he seems to favour the 'nuts and bolts' approach to the problem.

In the last chapter, where he discusses the 1973 wage in the USA, he is obviously hoping for some really concrete evidence to turn up, so that he can write a sequel wrapping up the whole UFO business once and for all.

- John Harney

KEEL, John A. The Mothman Prophecies. (Saturday Review Press: E P Dutton & Co., Inc. New York. £4.50)

Another dose of 'ultraterrestrial' horror from John Keel, on the same lines as "Operation Trojan Horse" - the dreaded Mothman of West Virginia, the ubiquitous MIB, and things that go bump in the night in isolated farmsteads. However, if we refuse to take Keel too literally and carefully read between the lines, his argument seems to be that the UFO problem is basically psychological.

- John Harney

(We intend to include a fuller review of this book, and other recent books on the parapsychical and psychological aspects of the UFO enigma, in a future issue of MUFOB)

VON DÄNIKEN, Eric. Miracles of the Gods. (Souvenir Press, £3.75)

Von Däniken in this book moves on from ancient astronauts to argue that religious visions are in fact merely attempts at communication by extraterrestrials; although it is not very clear whether this is by ESP, or some technological means. Unlike von Däniken's previous books, this one has an extensive bibliography, which however gives no credit to Jung, Vallée, Keel, or any other writers who have explored the similarities between UFO reports and religious visions, at considerably greater depth.

A great deal of padding seems to have been necessary to stretch out the ideas contained to book length. For instance, there are a couple of pages about the American prophetess Jeanne Dixon, whose relevance to the extraterrestrials is not clear. (Incidentally, anyone with any belief in Ms Dixon should attempt to get hold of her "My Life and Prophecies", published in 1971, and note the total inaccuracy of her pre-

dictions for the future that it contains.

Odder still is a chapter in which von Daniken denounces orthodox Christianity, pointing to the unreliability of the Gospels, on the grounds that they were not written for a considerable time after the life of Jesus, and contain internal contradictions. It would be interesting to know how he reconciles this chapter with his earlier books, in which far more dubious sections of the Old Testament were taken as literally true simply because they could be wrenched into evidence of ancient astronauts.

- Roger Sandell

RANDI, James. The Magic of Uri Geller.
Ballantine Books. 65p. (Paperback)

Not many trade secrets are given away in Randi's entertaining exposé, but the Geller myth is effectively deflated.

Particularly fascinating is the author's account of his first meeting with an unsuspecting Professor John Taylor displaying his credulity. We have heard of no libel writs being issued, so must assume the account is substantially true!

-John Rimmer

FORT, Charles. The Complete Books of Charles Fort. Dover Publications, NY. £8.50.
(Published in the UK by Constable & Co.)

This is the first new edition of the complete books of Charles Fort since 1941, although the four separate titles have been published in recent years under various paperback imprints. This edition is a direct reprint of the 1941 Fortean Society/Holt edition, with the original pagination and index. Here many people will see the major drawback of this edition - since 1941 a number of people have produced more useful indexes - it is a pity one of these could not have been used. The original ideosyncratic introduction by Tiffany Thayer has been replaced by a short note by Damon Knight, the SF writer.

The material of the four books is too well-known (and lengthy) for it to be possible, or desirable, to cover it in a short review. I personally find Fort's style very heavy going, and tend to skip the philosophising in favour of the nuggets of bizarre information. This brands me as no true Fortean, but even so this monumental work exercises a strong fascination. It's pricey, but for 1125 pages of a disturbing, yet strangely familiar world it's a bargain.

- John Rimmer

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